

**Remarks**

Reconsideration of the Application is requested. The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 (P)(5). Applicant has amended paragraphs 17, 18 and 19 of the specification and submitted a Replacement Sheet for Fig 1B to overcome this objection. Note character 49 was added to the Replacement Sheet for Fig. 1B.

Claims 1-7 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for lacking patentable utility.

Claims 1-7 as amended do not lack patentable utility. They provide a practical application that produces a useful result. Namely, offering first and second country indicia on mail for the payment of the first and second country carrier fees and debiting a meter for the payment of the fees. The foregoing allows the first country carrier and the second country carrier to be paid from a meter.

Claims 1-7 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) as being unpatentable over Pierce et al, U.S. Patent Number 6,865,558 in view of Kadaba (U.S. Publication Number 2004/0215480).

The present application, and the Pierce Patent were assigned to Pitney Bowes Inc. and were at the time of the present invention of the present application, commonly owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same entity, namely Pitney Bowes Inc. as indicated in the attached statement of common ownership under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Thus, the Pierce Patent should be removed as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) for the present application.

Kadaba discloses the following in paragraph [0059]

[0058] Alternatively, for the rural packages (or packages in areas where delivery is not cost-effective for the first carrier due to a lack of facilities, roads, etc.) the shipper may be offered a combined carrier delivery level of service. If the shipper selects this option, the shipper system 20 generates a combination label 25 as shown in FIG. 3. In one embodiment, the combination label 25 includes a second carrier address field 28 that indicates the destination delivery unit 17 to which the first carrier is to deliver the package, as shown in FIG. 3. Above the second carrier address field 28 is a return address field 44 of the shipper 11 and a package weight field 45, which in the illustrated label 25 of FIG. 3 is 3 pounds.

Kadaba disclosed a system in which packages are mailed from and delivered to locations in the same country.

Kadabata discloses the following in paragraph [0062]

[0062] Alternatively, the barcode 37 could also be an alphanumeric code, or other symbol, that is unique to the package. It should be noted that in the illustrated embodiment of the label 25 the first and second carrier tracking numbers are included on the label which allows the two numbers to be associated with each other in a database in at least the first carrier computer system 22. The presence of both tracking numbers on the label and stored in a common system facilitates communication between the two carrier computer systems 22, 23, as well as providing consolidated tracking information to authorized persons. Parcel select indicia 38, which is adjacent to the recipient address 36, indicates that the first carrier will pay the postage for delivery by the second carrier (USPS). In another embodiment, the combination label 25 may have a different format (as shown in FIG. 13) and can also include an alphanumeric delivery confirmation code 46 in addition to the barcode 37.

Kadaba only discloses one indicia 38. Indicia 38 indicates that the first carrier will pay the postage for delivery by the second carrier.

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Kadaba does not disclose or anticipate the inventors claimed by Applicant in claim 1 as amended. Namely, affixing a first indicia to mail for payment of carrier fees for the first country;

affixing a second country indicia to the mail for payment of the carrier fees for the second country, and

debiting a meter for the payment of the carrier fees or the first country and the carrier fees for the second country.

In view of the above Claim 1-7 as amended are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions would he please contact the undersigned the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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